



## It was a fun family day for the Shabururi Residence

Family and friends of the residents of the Shabururi Center gathered this past Saturday morning to enjoy some of their favorite activities, including athletic games, music and dancing and to share some time with the “clients” of the Stichting Voor Verstandelijk Gehandicapten or SVGA, who inhabit this center near Santa Cruz.

The SVGA is the Foundation for the Mentally Disabled, and Nettie Williams, Head of the Volunteers and Lila Mackay, President of the Special Olympics Committee, joined Director Tuyo Werleman in hosting a fun day for their charges. The Shabururi Center is tailored particularly for adult “clients” who live in center, which also provides productive activities to keep them active and involved.

Saturday’s open house featured food, drink, and fun for a purpose. The Special Olympics Committee is also beginning their drive to raise funds for the upcoming international games that will take place in Beijing in October of 2007. It is the fervent hope of the board of the Special Olympics Committee to be able to send a team of athletes to these games to compete. In the past year, there have been some outstanding performances during competitions around the Caribbean by a number of Aruba’s special athletes, and they have brought home gold medals from games in Jamaica and other events, out performing much larger teams from more populated islands. Lila Mackay reveals that they have eight athletes they feel are qualified to compete, and that it would cost at least 10,000 Aruban florins or more per athlete to send them to China in 2007.

The drive is on for sponsorship of Aruba team of Special Athletes, who only receive support from private donations. New facilities are being constructed to help them train better in track and field thanks to a substantial donation from the Kiwanis Club of Aruba, and members of the swim team, which is coached by swimming great Roly Bislick, have particularly proven they are capable of outstanding achievement. During the weekend’s festivities, everyone participated in a fun game of Bacci Ball, one of the most popular Special Olympic events, and one for which the Aruban team is known for its expertise. It was a happy day for the Shabaruri Residents and those that love them and care for them.